



New eremaeozetid mites (Acari: Oribatida: Eremaeozetoidea) from the south-western Pacific region and the taxonomic status of the Eremaeozetidae and Idiozetidae

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Abstract

Four new species of Eremaeozetidae are described from Australia: *Eremaeozetes schatzi* sp. nov. and *E. darwinensis* sp. nov. from the Northern Territory; *E. malleensis* sp. nov. from South Australia, and *Rogerzetes samueli* sp. nov. from Norfolk Island. *Eremaeozetes spathulatus* Balogh, 1968 from Papua New Guinea is recombined to *Rogerzetes*. *Eremaeozetes undulatus* Mahunka 1985 sensu Aoki 2006 from the Ryukyu Islands is a previously undescribed species. It is differentiated from *E. undulatus* Mahunka 1985 from St. Lucia and named *Eremaeozetes aokii* sp. nov. *Retrozetes* gen. nov. is proposed, containing the type species, *R. koghisensis* sp. nov., *R. mirabilis* sp. nov. and *R. novaecaledoniae* sp. nov. from New Caledonia, as well as *R. fernandezii* sp. nov. from Papua New Guinea. *Eremaeozetes hanswursti* Mahunka, 1999 from Singapore is recombined to *Retrozetes*. A new species of *Idiozetes*, *I. hagenensis* sp. nov., is described from Papua New Guinea. Idiozetidae is considered to be a junior synonym of Eremaeozetidae, which is re-defined and contains the genera *Eremaeozetes*, *Idiozetes*, *Mahunkaia*, *Retrozetes* and *Rogerzetes*. *Seteremaeozetes* P. Balogh, 1988 is made a junior subjective synonym of *Eremaeozetes*. Keys are provided to the genera of Eremaeozetidae and species of *Retrozetes*. A basic synthesis is presented of the biogeography of the Eremaeozetidae of the south-west Pacific region.

Key words: Mite, taxonomy, morphology, systematics, biogeography, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Australia, Norfolk Island